

## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### **1. How do I prepare for a visit to the Shawnee National Forest?**

It's always a good idea to plan ahead for your trip, including requesting the information and maps you need *before* your visit. For details on trip preparation, including safety information, check out our [Forest Safety Information Brochure](#) or contact us at 1-800-MY-WOODS.

### **2. How do I find my way around on the Shawnee?**

Click here to open our [Shawnee National Forest Guide](#) which is very helpful. You may also request the guide and other forest information by contacting our [Shawnee Forest Mailroom](#). You may also call or visit one of our offices in Harrisburg, Vienna or Jonesboro. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm CST. To contact the Headquarters in Harrisburg, call us at 1-800-MY-WOODS. Please consider requesting this information well in advance of your visit so you receive it in time.

### **3. How do I locate a recreation area, picnic site or campground?**

The forest recreation areas, picnic sites and campgrounds do not have physical addresses. Visit [Driving Directions for Recreation Areas](#) for directions to various sites on the Shawnee. You may also request a *Shawnee National Forest Guide* brochure by contacting one of our offices in Harrisburg, Vienna or Jonesboro. If you plan to visit the area outside of our regular office hours of 8:00am to 4:30pm CST, please contact us to obtain the information and maps you need before your visit. You may also click here [GPS Coordinates of Recreation Areas](#) to view the forest recreation area GPS coordinates.

### **4. Where are the Shawnee National Forest offices located in relation to the recreation areas?**

The ***Headquarters Office*** is located at 50 Hwy 145 South, Harrisburg, IL 62946. This office is located on the eastern side of the Shawnee and is the first building on the right as you turn south onto Route 145/34 leaving Harrisburg. It is approximately 22 miles north of the Garden of the Gods

Recreation Area. You may contact this office by calling 1-618-253-7114 or 1-800-MY-WOODS.

The ***Hidden Springs-Vienna Office*** is located at 602 North First Street, Vienna, IL 62995. This office is located just off I-24 on Route 45. It is approximately 15 miles west of the Lake Glendale Recreation Area. You may contact this office by calling 1-618-658-2111.

The ***Mississippi Bluffs- Jonesboro Office*** is located at 521 North Main Street, Jonesboro, IL 62952. This office is located on the west side of the Shawnee, just off Route 146. It is approximately 8 miles east of the LaRue Pine Hills Research Natural Area. You may contact this office by calling 1-618-833-8576. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm CST.

5. **Are there entrance or day-use fees charged at the Shawnee recreation areas?**

No. There are fees associated with the concessioner managed Lake Glendale Recreation Area.

6. **Can I reserve a picnic shelter or any other area on the Shawnee National Forest?**

No. The Shawnee does not reserve – All picnic shelters and other recreation areas are first-come, first-serve.

7. **How do I obtain a detailed map of the Shawnee?**

Maps are available for purchase at all of our offices, located in Harrisburg, Vienna and Jonesboro. You may also visit our [Map Order Form](#) to print a copy of the Shawnee National Forest Map Order Form. Please order your maps well in advance so you receive them *before* your visit. If you need assistance, please contact us at 1-800-MY-WOODS.

8. **How do I obtain a trail map of a specific area of the Forest?**

The Shawnee offers a detailed synthetic Trails Designation Project Map for sale at our offices in Harrisburg and Vienna for \$10.00. This map includes the four watersheds: Lusk Creek, Upper Bay Creek, Eagle Creek and Big Grand Pierre Creek. Please note that this map covers the eastern side of the Forest (the areas of Garden of the Gods to Lusk Creek).

**9. What about emergencies?**

In the event of an emergency, dial 911. Please visit our [Forest Safety Information brochure](#) for additional details.

**10. Do I need to make reservations to camp on the Shawnee?**

No. The Shawnee does not take reservations; all campgrounds are first-come, first-serve. When you arrive at the developed campground entrance, please follow the instructions on the fee station. To learn more about Shawnee developed campgrounds, click here: [Shawnee National Forest Recreation Areas](#). [Leave No Trace](#) ethics apply to *all* visits to the Shawnee.

**11. Does the Shawnee National Forest have cabins?**

No. To find out more information on cabins *near* the Shawnee National Forest, visit [Southernmost Illinois Tourism](#) or call 1-800-248-4373.

**12. Can I bring my dog on my visit to the Shawnee?**

Yes. Dogs are welcome in the Shawnee National Forest; however, they must be leashed or restrained in developed recreation areas such as campgrounds, picnic areas and on developed trails.

**13. What is the difference between developed and dispersed camping on the Forest?**

*Developed campgrounds:* All campgrounds are first-come, first serve, so no reserving of sites. There is a fee at these campgrounds which offers amenities such as a picnic table, lantern posts, grill, parking spot, potable drinking water and a toilet. There is also a dumpster nearby for your use.

Camping is allowed at one campsite for a maximum of 14 nights. Some of these campgrounds are closed seasonally; please see our recreation site index for more details. For specific regulations, visit [Developed Campground Regulations](#) for details on developed campground camping. It is also a good idea to leave your location and expected date of return with someone at home.

*Dispersed camping:* Dispersed camping is free on the Shawnee and offers no amenities. For specific regulations, visit [Dispersed Camping Regulations](#) for dispersed camping regulations. No permits are required. It is also a good idea to leave your location and expected date of return with someone at home. [Leave No Trace](#) ethics apply to *all* visits to the Shawnee.

**14. How do I obtain firewood for my campsite?**

Firewood *must* be from obtained from local sources only. If you use wood near your campsite, you *must only use dead and down wood*. This will help reduce the spread of non-native insects, which can kill large numbers of trees.

**15. I currently live in the area or plan to move to the area. How do I find general information about being a good neighbor to the Forest?**

Visit our [Living Next Door To The Shawnee Brochure](#) to open the link to our brochure Living Next Door To the Shawnee National Forest.

**16. How large is the Shawnee National Forest? Where is it located?**

The Shawnee National Forest is comprised of approximately 287,000 acres. It is located in the southern tip of Illinois between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Click here to open our [Shawnee National Forest Guide](#), which includes a map of the Forest.

**17. Do you have America the Beautiful or Federal Recreation Passes available at your offices?**

Yes. We have Senior, Access and Annual Passes available during regular office hours. If you have questions about the program, you may contact us at 1-800-MY-WOODS. Visit [USGS Store](#) to access additional information on the Federal Recreation Pass Program or contact USGS at 1-888-ASK-USGS (1-888-275-8747).

**18. I want to hunt or fish on the Shawnee? What regulations apply?**

**Hunting:** Illinois State regulations apply on the Shawnee as well as some additional regulations specific to the Forest. Visit [Hunting on the Shawnee National Forest](#) to access Forest related hunting information. Visit [Illinois Department of Natural Resources](#) to access the state regulations or to view their Hunting and Trapping Digest. [Leave No Trace](#) ethics apply to *all* visits to the Shawnee.

**Fishing:** Fishing is free on the Shawnee for those 15 years of age and younger. An Illinois fishing license is **required** for anyone over the age of 15. Visit [Illinois Department of Natural Resources](#) to access the state regulations and information on how to purchase your fishing license or contact IDNR at 1-217-782-6302.

**19. What about wildlife, snakes, etc.?**

For any information on *wildlife* and *snakes* you might encounter on the Shawnee or in southern Illinois, visit [Illinois Department of Natural Resources](#). For your safety and theirs, please do not bother or harass wildlife or snakes.

**20. I am a school teacher. How do I request a visit from an environmental education resource person (e.g. a visit from Smokey Bear and a fire prevention program)?**

Click here [Shawnee Forest Mailroom](#) to contact us through our Forest Mailroom, or call us at 1-800-MY-WOODS. Please contact us at least two weeks in advance to allow time to check on the availability of resources,

plan, coordinate and schedule your program.

21. **What agency manages the Shawnee National Forest?**

The Shawnee is managed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.